Niblack Gold Prospect

by Bretwood Higman, Andrew Mattox, David Coil, Elizabeth Lester

LAST MODIFIED: 12TH AUGUST 2019
CREATED: JAN. 19, 2018



Copyright: Creative Commons Attribution

Table of Contents

1. Summary
2. Current Status

Summary

The Niblack Project is a copper-zinc-gold-silver deposit located on Prince of Wales Island, about 30 miles southwest of Ketchikan. The current "indicated resource (/Issues/AlaskaCoal/CoalTerminology.html)" consists of 2.6 million tons of ore, composed of 1.18% copper, 2.19% zinc 2.33 g/t gold, and 33.18 g/t silver.

The project is being undertaken by Heatherdale Resource Ltd. (http://www.heatherdaleresources.com/hdr/Home.asp), a member of the Hunter Dickinson Mining Group (http://www.hdimining.com/s/Home.asp) (which also includes Northern Dynasty Minerals Ltd. (http://www.northerndynastyminerals.com/ndm/Home.asp), a partner in the proposed Pebble Mine project (/Issues/MetalsMining/PebbleMine.html)). Heatherdale also owns the rights to the nearby Cayenne and Ruby Tuesday properties, both of which contain non-operating historic mining operations. Power at the site (/Issues/MetalsMining/Powering-Large-Mines-In-Alaska.html) might come from development of hydropower resources in the area, but no details have emerged. Another possibility is that the company would barge the ore (http://

Copyright: Creative Commons Attribution

www.alaskajournal.com/Alaska-Journal-of-Commerce/June-Issue-4-2012/Ketchikan-eyed-to-process-Niblack-metals/) to a milling site near Kethikan to take advantage of existing hydropower. Site assessment for this arrangement is currently underway (http://www.krbd.org/2012/08/07/assembly-approves-niblack-agreement/?utm_source=rss&utm_medium=rss&utm_campaign=assembly-approves-niblack-agreement). The state is also considering constructing a road to the mine that would facilitate access (http://www.sitnews.us/0113News/013113/013113_se_economy.html).

Current Status

In June 2011, the company proposed (http://www.newsminer.com/company-hopes-to-establish-mine-on-southeast-alaska-island-by/article_7cbd7d88-a8ea-5725-9914-456c1104b948.html) an “optimistic” opening date of 2015 but no permit applications have yet been filed. Exploration in 2012 was expected (http://www.newswire.ca/en/story/1007837/heatherdale-initiates-2012-drill-program-provides-update-on-alaska-s-niblack-project) to consist of around 5,000 meters of drilling. Also in October 2012, work began (http://www.heatherdaleresources.com/hdr/NewsReleases.asp?ReportID=550402&_Type=News-Releases&_Title=Heatherdale-Signs-Memorandum-Of-Understanding-On-Preferred-Infrastructure-S...) on establishing the feasibility of locating the tailings facility and mill on Gravina Island. However, work slowed (http://www.krbd.org/2013/07/08/niblack-official-gives-project-updates/) during 2013 due to a lack

Copyright: Creative Commons Attribution

of security and funding in the mining industry and the project is in stasis (http://www.krbd.org/2013/08/28/niblack-exploration-on-hold-until-at-least-2014/) until at least 2014. Meanwhile AIDEA signed (http://www.alaskapublic.org/2013/10/09/aidea-signs-agreement-to-support-niblack-project/) an agreement to support the facility on Gravina Island.

Further Reading

> Alaska DNR page on Niblack Project (http://dnr.alaska.gov/mlw/mining/largemine/niblack/index.htm)

> Heatherdale Resources page on Niblack (http://www.heatherdaleresources.com/hdr/Niblack.asp)

> Southeast Alaska Conservation Council (SEACC) page on Niblack Mine (http://seacc.org/mining/niblack-mine)

Copyright: Creative Commons Attribution